

# THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 27.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1862.

VOL. XII.

## CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE THEATRE.

The doors of the Theatre were thrown open on Christmas eve, for the first time since last spring, to receive an auditory there invited by President Young. The First Presidency, the Twelve, the Bishops, the City Council, the members of the Legislature, and many of our principal citizens, with their families, were invited to join there the working men, mechanics and artists who had been engaged in the erection of the building, for the purpose of enjoying an unprogrammed entertainment.

The hour of assembling being set for half-past five o'clock, with the proverbial punctuality of such occasions, the invited soon filled every portion of the building. Presidents Young and Kimball, with ten of the Twelve Apostles, occupied seats on the stage.

The orchestra opened the entertainment with the Calantha Schottische, and President Young made some excellent introductory remarks intended to check the too prevalent habit of the strong crowding against the weak in seeking entrance into places of public amusement—remarks from which we hope to witness excellent practical results, as it is one of the most indefensible habits of selfishness, and a disgrace to every man who claims to be a respectable member of society.

The Tabernacle choir was invited before the footlights and sang the hymn,  
"On the Mountain tops appearing"  
and Elder Benson, offered prayer. The choir sang,  
"Hail times come again no more."

and President H. C. Kimball, delivered a short spirited address, expressing his interest in the progress of everything among the Saints that would tend to their edification and rational enjoyment. He invoked the blessing of the Lord upon President Young who had erected such a building for the entertainment of the people, encouraged the managers of the Theatre in the labors before them, and closed with his peace and blessings to all Israel, here and throughout the world.

Elders Orson Hyde, Amasa M. Lyman, and George A. Smith, made brief and pertinent remarks to the occasion, and Mr. J. T. D. McCallister sang

"Grasp the sword, gird on thine armor."  
Miss Clara Stenhouse, sung  
"The Cottage by the Sea."

Mr. Joseph H. Randall, sung a comic song and the Orchestra played sweetly the favorite Scottish airs:

"Afton Waters, and Muirland Willie."

Elder John Taylor, made some remarks and was followed by President Young, with general instructions and encouragement to the Saints. The word was passed to the manager, the scene was instantly changed, the orchestra struck up Sir Roger de Coverly, and a select company already on the boards went through with right good will that favorite old English dance. The remainder of the evening was devoted to the dance, and all without restriction had an opportunity of making once their appearance on the boards. "The hours flew by on Angels' wings," and at a little before eleven o'clock, "good night" was given and the company separated, no doubt gratified with the new Theatre and the kindness and courtesy of President Young, for the social gathering at which they had taken part.

## THE OPENING AND FIRST WEEK OF THE THEATRE.

Notwithstanding the numbering of the seats, and the sale of tickets throughout the whole of Christmas day, the patrons of the drama began to assemble early in the evening around the pillars of the theatre, and for an hour before the time fixed for the opening of the doors, there was a dense crowd of persons in the street anxiously awaiting the moment of admission. Every thing was orderly till the usual rush began, and we then entertained fears of injury to ladies and children; but we have not learned of any person having been seriously inconvenienced, and while we hope

that nothing of this character did occur, we do earnestly beg of the thoughtless and giddy to refrain at once from this absurd and uncalled for practice. There is no advantage by it to any one, and it inconveniences, annoys, and injures every person.

At a quarter before 7 o'clock, the Orchestra opened with

"Hail Columbia."

a performance which seemed to whisper to the older inhabitants that the drama and its associations in Salt Lake City had now passed from struggling existence to first rank in the country. There was every indication among the audience that the building provided for their amusement had met their wishes, was worthy of him who had erected and superintended it, from the first stroke of the pick axe to the moment of ushering the first representation before the public. There is an air of unostentatious display about the entire arrangements. The absence of tawdry show, yet the presence of great taste everywhere visibly bespeak high considerations for comfort and refined enjoyment.

It would be improper now, as the building is yet unfinished, to give details of it as it is. Before another season every thing will be procured that has hindered its completion, then we may expect to say more. In the meantime we think that we represent the feeling of the citizens and "Strangers with'n," and without, "our gates" that the new theatre is highly creditable to the city, and indicates, more than any thing yet about us, that growing stability of existence in the desert which is gratifying to every citizen of the Republic who looks forward to the development of the public domain without regard to creeds or party.

By way of introductory, the stage manager John T. Caine Esq., stepped before the foot lights and delivered the following

ADDRESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is usual, on occasions like this, to address, in some set speech or measured phrase, the patrons of the Drama. We have no such speech to offer you to-night, but in few words we greet you, and bid you welcome to our new Dramatic Temple, which greeting we hope you will think no less cordial and sincere because given in this plain, unvarnished manner.

This edifice was commenced early in July, 1861, and has been thus far completed at a cost of over one hundred thousand dollars, nor is it yet finished. The decorations, as you perceive, are incomplete; this is owing to the inability of California (though a golden State) to furnish us with the necessary material for gilding; this, however, will soon be procured from the east, and then the sides of the proscenium, the fronts of the circle and the cornice around the ceiling will be decorated in the same chaste and beautiful style as is the arch and front of the proscenium. Some of the seats, though we hope you find them comfortable, are but temporary, and will soon give place to others, rendered still more comfortable by the upholsterer's art.

The stage machinery, scenery, properties and dresses will be found to reflect credit upon the artists who have designed and executed them.

The players who will appear from time to time upon these boards, are amateurs—not professionals. We say this, not to disarm any just criticism, but to prevent invidious comparisons from arising in your minds; and, though we have no particular stars, it will be the endeavor of every one to so perform his part, however humble, that the whole may form a beautiful constellation.

The orchestra—ah! what of them? I must pause, and let their own sweet strains speak for them, realizing that they will be far more acceptable to you than anything I can say.

For all the grandeur of conception, magnificence of design, and beauty of execution, which characterize every thing that surrounds us here to-night, we are pre-eminently indebted to him who is ever foremost in every good work, the patron of the fine arts, the friend of industrious talent, and in the fullest and broadest sense "the first citizen of Utah."

Let me, in conclusion, bespeak your kind indulgence for a few moments, then in the language of the poet:

"We will soon uplift the mystic veil,  
Reveal our beauties unto your 'all hail!'  
Our efforts all be listed in your cause,  
Our proudest hope to earn your kind applause,  
That glorious tribute every fear disarms—  
The laurels that we crave are but your palms."

As a matter of local history that may be looked for by the generation to come, as well as of interest to many now on the stage of life we publish the opening bill entire:

## THEATRE!

Manager	-	H. B. Clawson.
Stage-Manager	-	John T. Caine.
Prompter	-	Wm. Clayton.
Musical Director	-	C. J. Thomas.
Stage Machinist	-	W. H. Folsom.
Scenic Artist	-	Wm. V. Morris.
Costumers	-	C. Clive and Mrs. Maiben.
Propertyman	-	Chas. Milard.

## OPENING NIGHT.

THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 25, 1862.

Will be presented, for the first time in this house, Tob n's beautiful Comedy, in Five Acts, the

## HONEYMOON.

With the following powerful cast, embracing almost the entire strength of the Company:

Duke Aranza	-	Mr. John T. Caine.
Jacques	-	Mr. P. Margetta.
Limpido	-	Mr. H. B. Clawson.
Rolando	-	Mr. H. K. Whitney.
Count Montalban	-	Mr. J. M. Simmons.
Balthazar	-	Mr. D. McKenzie.
Lopez	-	Mr. H. E. Bowring.
Campillo	-	Mr. R. H. Parker.
Pedro	-	Mr. J. B. Kelly.
Almedo	-	Mr. Z. Jacobs.
Juliana	-	Mrs. M. Bowring.
Volante	-	Mrs. M. G. Clawson.
Zimora	-	Mrs. A. Clawson.
Hostess	-	Mrs. Cooke.

Patriotic Address, "The Banner of our Country," composed by T. A. Lyne, Esq., Spoken by Mr. JOHN R. CLAWSON.

To conclude with the mirth-provoking Irish Farce,

## PADDY MILES' BOY:

or,

## IRISH MISCHIEF.

Paddy Miles (with songs)	-	Mr. W. C. Dunbar.
Dr. Coates	-	Mr. D. McKenzie.
Henry Coates	-	Mr. R. H. Parker.
Job (a gardener)	-	Mr. H. Maiben.
Reuben	-	Mr. H. E. Bowring.

Mrs. Fidget	-	Mrs. Cooke.
Jane Fidget	-	Miss Webb.

## OUR COUNTRY'S BANNER.

BY T. A. LYNE, ESQ.

Our stars and our stripes,  
With our eagle so grand,  
Shall float free o'er the sea,  
Free o'er the land.  
O'er the graves of our heroes,  
Our patriots so bold,  
Whom kingdoms could not buy  
Nor corrupt with their gold.  
It shall float free from the north,  
The south and the west,  
Honored by the world,  
And by Providence blest.  
Not a star nor a stripe  
Of its glory shall be shorn:  
The song yet for ages,  
By millions unborn.  
Then contempt and defiance  
For traitors at home,  
It shall float free from the cottage,  
To the capitol's dome.  
Should the stars of its glory  
Ever sink in the west,  
Our ancestry gone  
Would greet it to rest;  
And liberty, draped not  
In sable, but blood,  
Shall fly from this earth  
To the realm of the good;  
And give back the boon  
To the Author of all,  
For freedom's disgraced  
By man in his fall.  
Liberty has made her last effort  
With the fearless and true,  
And held them united  
By the red, white and blue.  
If "E PLURIBUS UNUM,"  
By disunion, should strand,  
The black night of Egypt  
Would then pall the land.  
May the power that ruffles  
The storm to a wall,

Disperse the dark clouds  
And calm the wild gale.  
Our Constitution's a stout ship,  
And has a brave crew;  
Her colors, nailed to the mast,  
Are the red, white and blue.  
Her bunting protects  
On sea and on shore;  
Then three shouts for our eagle,  
And our stars thirty-four.

The costume of the company was got up with care, and, where wanted, was exceedingly rich and attractive. The scenery second to no theatre on the continent. The playing gave general satisfaction, drew forth the hearty plaudits of the audience, and was highly creditable to the Association—notwithstanding the occasional "kinks" in the new Machinery, and the terribly discouraging coughing of a large portion of the audience—afflicted by the present epidemic. Throughout the evening, the Orchestra played the following choice music: Hail Columbia, Rose Bud Varsoviana, Diadem Polka, Duke of Rickstadt's Waltz, Star Spangled Banner, Queen of the Ball Waltzes, Immortelin Waltzes, Kathinska Polka, Within a Mile of Edinburgh Town, My Wife's a Wisom Wee thing.

We notice with pleasure the unremitting efforts of Professor Thomas to render the Orchestra a great feature of the entertainment. He has recently added, with excellent effect, two French horns, and it will certainly not be invidious to mention that we are pleased to see Mr. John M. Jones again among the first violins, and Mr. Mark Croxall's solos on the Cornet-a-piston are deservedly appreciated.

We take great satisfaction in noticing that good order was observed throughout the whole evening, and when some of our own boys abandon whistling and yelling, the theatre will be still a more agreeable place of entertainment.

On Saturday evening the "Honeymoon" was repeated, followed by Dunbar's song "Yankee Manufactures," and the farce—the "Two Polts." The machinery ran easily and the playing was more spirited: the house was also better lighted, which gave a livelier appearance to every thing. The winter season has thus opened fair and promises to be largely patronised. The Management intends to produce a variety of dramas and comedies, never before played in this city, which will doubtless meet with appreciation from those who delight in the agreeable study of life on the boards.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST. — We would call the attention of all interested in agriculture (and who is not?) throughout this Territory, to the fact that an unusual opportunity is offered for being supplied one year with that popular and valuable illustrated periodical, *The American Agriculturist*, by the delivery of a small amount of grain at the Tithing Store in Great Salt Lake City. Farmers should read it, they would find many a hint worth ten years' subscription; the ladies should read it for its numerous hints on Domestic Economy; parents should buy it for their children, and all should join for its general circulation, as introducing a periodical supply of good and useful reading matter for the low price of one dollar in money or grain. See Mr. Naisbett's advertisement.

CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY. — There was a "Grand Ball" at the Thirteenth Ward Assembly Rooms on Christmas Eve, which was attended by most, if not all, the Representatives of the Federal Government in this city; many officers of the California Volunteers, including the Colonel commanding and a considerable number of the merchants, transient traders, officers of the Overland Mail and Telegraph companies, and other gentlemen. It is represented to have been a splendid, well conducted party, creditable to the Committee of Arrangements, Messrs. E. M. Morgan, William Gilbert, David Hopkins and G. W. Carleton as well as to all who participated in the festivities of the occasion.